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| 10/767,371 | 01/30/2004 | Hideyuki Suzuki | 248270US6 | 4892 |

| | | | EXAMINER |
|---|---|---|---|
| 22850        7590        02/09/2006 | | | SHEDRICK, CHARLES TERRELL |

OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
1940 DUKE STREET
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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|---|---|
| 2687 | |

DATE MAILED: 02/09/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

| | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
|---|---|---|
| **Office Action Summary** | 10/767,371 | SUZUKI, HIDEYUKI |
| | **Examiner** | **Art Unit** | |
| | Charles Shedrick | 2687 | |

*-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --*

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *01 December 2005*.

2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.     2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

4) ☒ Claim(s) *3-16* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) *3-16* is/are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on *30 January 2004* is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a) ☒ All   b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:

      1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) ☐ Other: _____.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

1.    The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the

basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims **3,6,** and **11** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by **Shimizu (US**

**Patent Pub. No.: 2002/0196764 A1).**

Consider **claim 3,** Shimizu teaches a terminal comprising: a key management list table

having at least one key management list in which authentication header keys with respect to

other terminals are held in such a manner as to correspond to the terminal identifiers of said other

terminals **(paragraphs 0018, 0052-0056)**; means for searching said key management list for said

key management list containing the transmission terminal identifier of a received frame in order

to extract said corresponding authentication header key ( **abstract, paragraphs 0018, 0052-0056**

**and figures 4 and 5)** ; and means for confirming whether or not the authentication header of said

frame is valid by using said extracted authentication header key **(paragraphs 0018, 0052-**

**0056,0065-0076)** .

Consider **claim 6,** Shimizu teaches a terminal comprising: a key management list table

having at least one key management list for holding an authentication header key with respect to

another terminal in such a manner as to correspond to the terminal identifier of said other

terminal **(figures 3-5, paragraphs 0014, 0017-0018, 0020,0052-0056)**; means for searching said

key management list table for said key management list containing the reception terminal

identifier of a frame to be transmitted in order to generate an authentication header by using said

corresponding authentication header key and for giving the authentication header to said frame;

and means for transmitting said frame(**figures 3-5, paragraphs 0014, 0017-0018, 0020,0052-**

**0056**).

Consider **claim 11** Shimizu teaches an authentication method for use in a terminal having

a key management list table having at least one key management list for holding authentication

header keys with respect to other terminals in such a manner as to correspond to the terminal

identifiers of said other terminals ( **abstract, paragraphs 0018, 0052-0056 and figures 4 and**

**5**), said authentication method comprising the steps of: searching said key management list table

for said key management list containing the transmission terminal identifier of a received frame

in order to extract said authentication header key(**figures 3-5, paragraphs 0014, 0017-0018,**

**0020,0052-0056**); and confirming whether or not the authentication header of said frame is valid

by using said extracted authentication header key(**figures 3-5, paragraphs 0014, 0017-0018,**

**0020,0052-0056**).

## *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

2.      The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in
> section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are
> such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person
> having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the
> manner in which the invention was made.

3.      The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham* v. *John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459

(1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35

U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

   1.      Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
   2.      Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
   3.      Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
   4.      Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness
          or nonobviousness.

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Shimizu (US Patent Pub.**

**No.: 2002/0196764 A1)** in view of **(Lockart et al. US Patent No.: 6,229,806 B1 hereinafter**

**"Lockart").**

        Consider **claim 4** and **as applied to claim 3**, Shimizu teaches a terminal according to

claim 3, further comprising: a path table having at least one path list for holding a transfer

destination terminal identifier for causing a frame to arrive at another terminal in such a manner

as to correspond to the terminal identifier of the other terminal **(paragraphs 0018, 0052-0056**

**and figures 4 and 5)**; and means for searching said path table for said path list containing an

end-point terminal identifier and transmitting said frame to said transfer destination terminal

identifier when said authentication header is valid **(paragraphs 0018, 0052-0056 and figures 4**

**and 5)** and the end-point terminal identifier of said frame is not the terminal identifier of the

other terminal **(paragraphs 0018, 0052-0056 and figures 4 and 5)**

        However, Shimizu does not teach discarding said frame when said authentication header

is not valid.

        In the same field of endeavor, Lockart teaches discarding said frame when said

authentication header is not valid **(col. 3 lines 40-45, lines 55-60 and figure 3)**.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to modify Shimizu to include discarding frames as taught by Lockart for the

purpose of a more efficient authentication procedure.

Claims **5,7, and 13** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Shimizu (US**

**Patent Pub. No.: 2002/0196764 A1)** in view of **O'Brien (US Patent Pub. No.: US**

**2004/0022931 A1)**

Consider **claim 5**, Shimizu teaches a terminal comprising: a key management list table

having at least one key management list for holding an authentication header key and a unicast

encryption key with respect to another terminal in such a manner as to correspond to the terminal

identifier of said other terminal (**figures 3-5, paragraphs 0014, 0018, 0020,0052-0056**); means

for searching said key management list table for said key management list containing the

transmission terminal identifier of a received frame in order to extract said corresponding

authentication header key (**figures 3-5, paragraphs 0014, 0017-0018, 0020,0052-0056**); means

for confirming whether or not the authentication header of said frame is valid by using said

extracted authentication header key(**paragraphs 0013, 0018,0065-0066,0071,0074**); means for

searching said key management list table for said key management list containing a start-point

terminal identifier of said frame in order to extract said corresponding unicast encryption key

when said authentication header is valid and the end-point terminal identifier of said frame is the

terminal identifier of the other terminal (**figures 3-5, paragraphs 0014, 0017-0018, 0020,0052-**

**0056**).

However, Shimizu does not teach means for decrypting the payload of said frame by

using said extracted unicast encryption key.

In the same field of endeavor, O'Brien teaches means for decrypting the payload of said frame by using said extracted unicast encryption key (**abstract, paragraphs 0010, 0031, 0035, and 0045**).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Shimizu to include the invention as taught by O'Brien for the purpose of securing information.

Consider **claim 7**, Shimizu teaches a terminal comprising: a key management list table having at least one key management list for holding authentication header keys and unicast encryption keys with respect to other terminals in such a manner as to correspond to the terminal identifiers of said other terminals (**figures 3-5, paragraphs 0014, 0017-0018, 0020,0052-0056**); means for searching said key management list table for said key management list containing the reception terminal identifier of a frame to be transmitted in order to generate an authentication header by using said corresponding authentication header key and for giving the authentication header to said frame(**figures 3-5, paragraphs 0014, 0017-0018, 0020,0052-0056**); means for searching said key management list table for said key management list containing the end-point terminal identifier of said frame and means for transmitting said frame(**figures 3-5, paragraphs 0014, 0017-0018, 0020,0052-0056**).

However, Shimizu does not teach means for encrypting the payload of said frame by using said corresponding unicast encryption key.

In the same field of endeavor, O'Brien teaches means for encrypting the payload of said frame by using said extracted unicast encryption key (**abstract, paragraphs 0010, 0031, 0035, and 0045**).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Shimizu to include the invention as taught by O'Brien for the purpose of securing information.

Consider **claim 13**, Shimizu teaches an encryption method for use in a terminal having a key management list table having at least one key management list for holding authentication header keys and unicast encryption keys with respect to other terminals in such a manner as to correspond to the terminal identifiers of said other terminals (**figures 3-5, paragraphs 0014, 0017-0018, 0020,0052-0056**), said encryption method comprising the steps of: searching said key management list table for said key management list containing the transmission terminal identifier of a received frame in order to extract said authentication header key(**figures 3-5, paragraphs 0014, 0017-0018, 0020,0052-0056**); confirming whether or not the authentication header of said frame is valid by using said extracted authentication header key(**paragraphs 0013, 0018,0065-0066,0071,0074**); searching said key management list table for said key management list containing the start-point terminal identifier of said frame when said authentication header is valid and the end-point terminal identifier of said frame is the terminal identifier of the corresponding terminal in order to extract said corresponding unicast encryption key(**figures 3-5, paragraphs 0014, 0017-0018, 0020,0052-0056**).

In the same field of endeavor, O'Brien teaches means for decrypting the payload of said frame by using said extracted unicast encryption key (**abstract, paragraphs 0010, 0031, 0035, and 0045**).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time

the invention was made to modify Shimizu to include the invention as taught by O'Brien for the

purpose of securing information.

Claims **8 and 16** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

**Shimizu (US Patent Pub. No.: 2002/0196764 A1)** in view of (**Ocepek et al. US Pub No.:**

**2004/0049586 A1, "Ocepek" hereinafter**) and further in view of (**Ibi et al. US Pub. No.:**

**2003/0118189A1, "Ibi" hereinafter**).

Consider **claim 8** Shimizu teaches a terminal comprising: a neighboring terminal list

table for holding the terminal identifier of another terminal with which direct communication is

possible among the terminals which form a network (**abstract, paragraphs 0017-0018,**

**0051nad 0052**); a key management list table having at least one key management list for holding

an authentication header key with respect to another terminal in such a manner as to correspond

to the terminal identifier of the other terminal which forms said network (**figures 3-5,**

**paragraphs 0014, 0017-0018, 0020,0052-0056**)

However, Shimizu does not disclose means for, when a leaving from said network occurs

at the terminals whose terminal identifiers are held in said neighboring terminal list table,

deleting from said key management list table said key management list containing the terminal

identifier of the terminal that has left the network.

In the same field of endeavor, Ocepek teaches when a leaving from said network occurs

at the terminals whose terminal identifiers are held in said neighboring terminal list table the

terminal identifier of the terminal that has left the network (**see figures 14 and 15, paragraphs**

**0037, 00055, 0066,0068,0074, and 0075**).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Shimizu to include the invention of Ocepek for the purpose of access control.

However, Shimizu as modified by Ocepek does not teach deleting from said key management list table said key management list.

In the same field of endeavor, Ibi teaches deleting from said key management list table said key management list (**figures 5,19 and 20, paragraphs 0151-0154**)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Shimizu as modified by Ocepek to include the invention as taught by Ibi for the purpose of processing encryption functions.

Consider **claim 16**, Shimizu teaches a terminal management method for use in a terminal having at least one key management list for holding authentication headers with respect to other terminals in such a manner as to correspond to the terminal identifiers of the other terminals which form the network (**figures 3-5, paragraphs 0014, 0017-0018, 0020,0052-0056**)

However, Shimizu does not disclose means for, when a leaving from said network occurs at the terminals whose terminal identifiers are held in said neighboring terminal list table, deleting from said key management list table said key management list containing the terminal identifier of the terminal that has left the network.

In the same field of endeavor, Ocepek teaches when a leaving from said network occurs at the terminals whose terminal identifiers are held in said neighboring terminal list table the terminal identifier of the terminal that has left the network (**see figures 14 and 15, paragraphs 0037, 00055, 0066,0068,0074, and 0075**).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time

the invention was made to modify Shimizu to include the invention of Ocepek for the purpose of

access control.

However, Shimizu as modified by Ocepek does not teach deleting from said key

management list table said key management list.

In the same field of endeavor, Ibi teaches deleting from said key management list table

said key management list **(figures 5,19 and 20, paragraphs 0151-0154)**

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time

the invention was made to modify Shimizu as modified by Ocepek to include the invention as

taught by Ibi for the purpose of processing encryption functions.

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Shimizu (US**

**Patent Pub. No.: 2002/0196764 A1)** in view of **(Ocepek et al. US Pub No.: 2004/0049586 A1,**

**"Ocepek" hereinafter)** and further in view of **(Ibi et al. US Pub. No.: 2003/0118189A1, "Ibi"**

**hereinafter)** and further in view of **(Meier US Patent No.: 6,847,620 B1)**

Consider **claim 9** and **as applied to a terminal according to claim 8**, Shimizu as

modified by Ocepek and further modified by Ibi teaches the claimed invention except further

comprising means for transmitting a terminal leaving message for informing the terminal

identifier of said terminal that has left the network to the other terminals which form said

network in a case where the terminal whose terminal identifier is held in said neighboring

terminal list table leaves the network.

However, In the same field of endeavor, Meier teaches means for transmitting a terminal

leaving message for informing the terminal identifier of said terminal that has left the network to

the other terminals which form said network in a case where the terminal whose terminal

identifier is held in said neighboring terminal list table leaves the network (**column 5 lines 39 –**

**65**).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time

the invention was made to modify Shimizu as modified by Ocepek and further modified by Ibi to

the include the invention taught by Meier for the purpose of efficient networking.

Claim **10** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Shimizu (US Patent**

**Pub. No.: 2002/0196764 A1)** in view of (**Meier US Patent No.: 6,847,620 B1**) and further in

view of (**Ibi et al. US Pub. No.: 2003/0118189A1, "Ibi" hereinafter**) and further in view of

(**Ocepek et al. US Pub No.: 2004/0049586 A1, "Ocepek" hereinafter**)

Consider **claim 10** Shimizu teaches a terminal comprising: a key management list table

having at least one key management list for holding authentication header keys with respect to

other terminals in such a manner as to correspond to the terminal identifiers of the other

terminals which form a network (**figures 3-5, paragraphs 0014, 0017-0018, 0020,0052-0056**)

However, Shimizu does not teach means for, when a terminal leaving message informing

the terminal identifier of the terminal which has left said network is received, deleting from said

key management list table said key management list containing the terminal identifier of the

terminal that has left the network.

However, In the same field of endeavor, Meier teaches when a terminal leaving message

informing the terminal identifier of the terminal which has left said network is received. (**column**

**5 lines 39 –65**).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Shimizu to the include the invention taught by Meier for the purpose of efficient networking

However, Shimizu as modified by Meier does not teach deleting from said key management list table said key management list containing the terminal identifier of the terminal that has left the network.

In the same field of endeavor, Ibi teaches deleting from said key management list table said key management list **(figures 5,19 and 20, paragraphs 0151-0154)**

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Shimizu as modified by Meir to include the invention as taught by Ibi for the purpose of processing encryption functions.

However, Shimizu as modified by Meier as further modified by Ibi does not teach deleting from list containing the terminal identifier of the terminal that has left the network.

In the same field of endeavor, Ocepek teaches when a leaving from said network occurs at the terminals whose terminal identifiers are held in said neighboring terminal list table the terminal identifier of the terminal that has left the network (see **figures 14 and 15, paragraphs 0037, 00055, 0066,0068,0074, and 0075**).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Shimizu as modified by Meier as further modified by Ibi to include the invention of Ocepek for the purpose of access control.

Claims **12 and 14** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Shimizu (US**

**Patent Pub. No.: 2002/0196764 A1)** in view of **(Nuutinen U.S. 2002/0129236 A1)**

Consider claims **12 and 14**, Shimizu teaches an authentication and encryption method for use in

a terminal having a key management list table having at least one key management list for

holding authentication header keys with respect to other terminals in such a manner as to

correspond to the terminal identifiers of said other terminals(**figures 3-5, paragraphs 0014,**

**0017-0018, 0020,0052-0056**), said authentication method comprising the steps of: searching said

key management list table for said key management list containing the transmission terminal

identifier of a received frame in order to extract said authentication header key(**figures 3-5,**

**paragraphs 0014, 0017-0018, 0020,0052-0056**);

However Shimizu does not teach generating a keyed hashed value, in which said

extracted authentication header key is hashed together with a predetermined area of said frame;

and confirming whether or not said authentication header is valid by comparing said keyed

hashed value with the authentication header of said frame.

In the same field of endeavor, Nuutinen teaches generating a keyed hashed value, in

which said extracted authentication header key is hashed together with a predetermined area of

said frame; and confirming whether or not said authentication header is valid by comparing said

keyed hashed value with the authentication header of said frame (**paragraphs 0060, 0130-0131,**

**and 184**).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time

the invention was made to modify Shimizu to include the invention as taught by Nuutinen for the

purpose of secure transmission.

Claim **15** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Shimizu (US Patent**

**Pub. No.: 2002/0196764 A1)** in view of **(Ocepek et al. US Pub No.: 2004/0049586 A1,**

**"Ocepek" hereinafter)** and further in view of **(Ibi et al. US Pub. No.: 2003/0118189A1, "Ibi"**

**hereinafter)** and further in view of **(Meier US Patent No.: 6,847,620 B1)**

Consider **claim 15** Shimizu teaches a terminal management method for use in a terminal

having a neighboring terminal list table for holding the terminal identifier of another terminal

with which direct communication is possible among the terminals which form a network

**(abstract, paragraphs 0017-0018, 0051nad 0052)**; a key management list table having at least

one key management list for holding an authentication header key with respect to another

terminal in such a manner as to correspond to the terminal identifier of the other terminal which

forms said network**(figures 3-5, paragraphs 0014, 0017-0018, 0020,0052-0056)**

However, Shimizu does not disclose means for, when a leaving from said network occurs

at the terminals whose terminal identifiers are held in said neighboring terminal list table,

deleting from said key management list table said key management list containing the terminal

identifier of the terminal that has left the network.

In the same field of endeavor, Ocepek teaches when a leaving from said network occurs

at the terminals whose terminal identifiers are held in said neighboring terminal list table the

terminal identifier of the terminal that has left the network **(see figures 14 and 15, paragraphs**

**0037, 00055, 0066,0068,0074, and 0075)**.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Shimizu to include the invention of Ocepek for the purpose of access control.

However, Shimizu as modified by Ocepek does not teach deleting from said key management list table said key management list.

In the same field of endeavor, Ibi teaches deleting from said key management list table said key management list (**figures 5,19 and 20, paragraphs 0151-0154**)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Shimizu as modified by Ocepek to include the invention as taught by Ibi for the purpose of processing encryption functions.

However, Shimizu as modified by Ocepek and further modified by Ibi does not teach transmitting a terminal leaving message for informing the terminal identifier of said terminal that has left the network to the other terminals which form said network in a case where the terminal whose terminal identifier is held in said neighboring terminal list table leaves the network.

In the same field of endeavor, Meier teaches means for transmitting a terminal leaving message for informing the terminal identifier of said terminal that has left the network to the other terminals which form said network in a case where the terminal whose terminal identifier is held in said neighboring terminal list table leaves the network (**column 5 lines 39 –65**).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Shimizu as modified by Ocepek and further modified by Ibi to the include the invention taught by Meier for the purpose of efficient networking.

*Conclusion*

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Charles Shedrick whose telephone number is (571)-272-8621. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday 8:00AM-4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kincaid Lester can be reached on (571)-272-7922. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Charles Shedrick
AU 2687
February 3, 2006

NICK CORSARO
PRIMARY EXAMINER